

3:6). In the same inspired record of the work and message of the Apostolic church, there is told the terrible story of one Simon, the Sorcerer, who, when he had offered money to the Apostle Peter with a view of purchasing a spiritual gift, received from him this fearful rebuke: "Thy money perish with thee, because thou has thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot with us in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God." (Acts 8:20-21.) Men who traffic in spiritual things for money merit such a condemnation as this from God, while at the same time their callous indifference to the sufferings and needs of those poor deluded wretches whom they exploit is sufficient proof, in the eyes of all right-minded men, that the high claims which they arrogate to themselves for gain are nothing but hollow pretences.

What Price Redemption?

But let us consider the price that the eminent ecclesiastic has arbitrarily placed upon the proffered passage from earth to heaven. Forty dollars! That is a great deal of money for one who does not possess it, and the Archbishop himself suggests that his "Dear Catholic Parents" are not rich. But on the other hand, forty dollars in current coin of the realm will not buy much in these days of the high cost of living. For instance, forty dollars will not pay for one's fare from Winnipeg to Montreal. Yet in exchange for that amount of money, the above letter "guarantees" an immediate passage from earth to heaven, without any halt at Purgatory! Is it a shorter journey from this world to the heavenly country, than the trip from Winnipeg to Montreal? This is indeed a cut-rate fare, if the Archbishop's ticket is really valid. It is a long way from earth to heaven; there is a vast stretch of territory to be covered from the City of Destruction to the Heavenly Country. From the state of condemnation to that blessed and happy condition where the once-guilty sinner stands justified in the presence of God, is indeed a long journey. Can it possibly be true that the fare is only forty dollars? Can we believe that the eternal salvation of our souls is worth no more than forty dollars? Is the price of our redemption reduced to this miserly sum by some sort of Romanist bargain sale? No it cannot be; reason, common sense, decency, all cry out against such a preposterous proposition. The human conscience revolts at such an outrageous travesty of Divine redemption. The Holy Scriptures contradict its blatant hypocrisy. The Apostle Peter, whom some claim as the first pope wrote these words: "Ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (I Peter 1:18-20.)

Does the Archbishop who is the author of the above letter mean to do away with the Cross as the symbol of Christianity and replace it with fat and well-filled money bags? Because he is ready to sell eternal felicity to the rich man while he passes by his poverty stricken neighbour on the other side, does he wickedly and wantonly dream that the God of all mercy is such an one as he? The Gospel, which is the Good News of God's love, stands written in the Bible to refute and deny this aspersion on the holiness and the love of that God, Who "so loved the world that he gave his only be-

gotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16.)

Let no one fall a prey to the greed of this arrogant ecclesiastic and his fellows, for in the place of their spurious offer of salvation for forty dollars, the God of all grace extends to us a genuine invitation free of charge, that is both merciful and powerful: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat: yea come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." (Isaiah 55:1.) Those false prophets and evil shepherds who require their victims to pay, pay, pay, are best described in the very words of Scripture itself: "And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you; whose judgement now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not." (II Peter 2:3.) Little wonder that such avaricious men as these command their intended victims to destroy and burn the Word of God which declares that life eternal is the GIFT of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; that says, "whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:17.) Let those who have heard this gracious invitation from God flee these hirelings who care not for the sheep, since they are come only to steal, and to kill and to destroy, but let needy sinners rather come to Him who is the Good Shepherd, and who "giveth his life for the sheep." (John 10:11.) He and no other is the door, for He says: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." (John 10:9.)

—W.S.W.

HOW MANY CATHOLICS ARE THERE?

By J. J. Murphy

(In *The Converted Catholic Magazine*)

IN the United States the Roman Catholic church has attained undreamt-of political power within the last decade. It has done so largely by pure bluff, by grossly exaggerating the number of American Catholics and by pretending that it could deliver a bloc of 20,000,000 votes in a national election. President Roosevelt has responded to its pressure. Once when he threatened to lift the embargo of arms to Republican Spain, Archbishop Curley promptly threatened to withdraw the support of a "bloc of 20,000,000 Catholic votes." The embargo continued.

Since the inflation of Catholic statistics had proved so profitable, the hierarchy recently decided that more inflation meant more profit. On November 16, 1941, Bishop Gerald J. Shaughnessy airily declared in Philadelphia at the Catholic Catechetical Convention that "the actual Catholic population of the United States is 35,000,000." Last January 16, Bishop John F. Noll in a front-page editorial of the largest Catholic paper in America, *Our Sunday Visitor*, blandly stated that the number of Catholics given in the Official Catholic Directory "is minimized by at least 10,000,000," and that "there are millions of practising Catholics who are never included in the reports" of the Catholic Directory. He concluded that it is entirely reasonable to calculate that there are 41,000,000 Catholics in the United States.

When not agitating for Federal patronage and political power, however, the hierarchy is obliged to conform its statistics with the figures submitted by the pastors of

the 111 dioceses of this country. As recorded in the *Official Catholic Directory* of 1943, these figures add up to a total of 22,556,242 Roman Catholics in the United States.

On the other hand, the Catholic population of this country as given in the last compilation of religious data gathered from the various churches by the U.S. Census Bureau is 19,914,937. But the census bureau hastened to make clear that these figures are not as large as they appear. It said: "It is apparent, therefore, that direct comparison of memberships of such organizations as the Catholic . . . bodies with those of the Methodist, Baptist and other bodies, overemphasizes the numerical strength of the former group."¹ The reason for this is that the Roman Catholic church, in contrast to nearly all Protestant churches, counts as communicants infants and children as well as adults.

Further light is thrown on the all-inclusive nature of the Roman Catholic statistics. In Part II of the second volume of these religious statistics, the Census Bureau (p. 1528) says of the Roman Catholic church:

"Baptism is the condition of membership in this denomination . . . and all persons baptized in the Catholic faith are so numbered unless by formal act they have renounced such membership."

Since invariably non-practising Catholics who drop out of the church do so without bothering to resign formally, they are counted as part of the Catholic fold. This is confirmed by the Dominican Catholic magazine, *The Pilot*, which declared: "The Church considers as Catholics all those who are or have been at any time Catholics, although they may have ceased to profess the Catholic faith."

Unreliability of the Catholic Census

The known fact that the Catholic church, in this country is bent on increasing its political power, and would naturally tend to manipulate the number of its adherents as a means to this end, leaves the Catholic population figures, which it compiles, open to grave suspicion. The additional fact that Bishop Noll, leading Catholic propagandist, has been for five years head of the Catholic Committee of the Census only adds to the misgivings.

Those familiar with the inside workings of the Catholic church know that, apart from politics, its pastors make an impressive addition each year to the statistics handed in to the bishop with the purpose of increasing, by this display of efficiency, their chances of getting a larger parish. Even in large dioceses many pastors never inconvenience themselves by taking a house-to-house census. For instance, in St. Benedict's parish in the archdiocese of Newark, N.J., during the 18-year pastorate of Father Albert Lang, no census was ever taken up.

It is not surprising that conscientious Catholic statisticians make light of the figures given in the *Official Catholic Directory*. Father Thomas F. Coakley, leading authority on Catholic statistics, in the January, 1942, issue of *The Catholic World* declares that the increase in the Catholic birth rate recorded in the *Official Catholic Directory* between 1939 and 1940 is "almost fantastic, ranging from 52 per cent. up to 163 per cent. . . . Such a rise, in the space of a single year," he says, "makes it impossible to take the *Directory* figures too seriously."

The diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., in the *Official Catholic Directory* of 1940, numbered practically a quarter of a million less Catholics than in the preceding years. An official explanation admitted that the quarter of a million dropped represented Catholics who had given up all practice of Catholicism. However, of all the dioceses in the country this was the only one that discarded its totally defunct members. If other dioceses had been similarly purged, the boasted figure of 20,000,000 American Catholics would have been cut down to 15,000,000, for non-practising Catholics lose contact with the church much faster in small towns and country districts than in the highly organized city parishes.

The 15,000,000 United States Catholics that can be called 'practising Catholics' in the loose sense of the word are not all 'church communicants.' To put this figure on a basis of comparison with Protestant statistics, one must deduct from it the millions of infants and children who are still too immature to determine their religious preference. From statistics gathered from Roman Catholic authorities, the U.S. Census Bureau shows that 27.4 per cent. of the Catholics counted in their church directory are under 13 years of age.² Subtracting from the total number of practising American Catholics (15,000,000) 27.4 per cent., which represents children under 13 years of age, we have less than 11,000,000 adolescent and mature Catholics. If from this total number of practising Catholics, we subtract all who are still minors, we would have only a fraction of the "bloc of 20,000,000 Catholic voters" which Archbishop Curley used to bluff and intimidate President Roosevelt.

'Practising Catholics'

There is no reason to think that, when the Brooklyn diocese dropped a quarter of a million non-practising Catholics, it dropped all it had. Doubtless it tenaciously clung to tens of thousands that attended church only on the rarest of occasions in the hope of eventually winning them back. Most people fail to realize that half the people classifying themselves as Catholics reject even those teachings that have been defined by Papal pronouncements. For instance, in the autumn of 1943 the quarterly edition of *Fortune* magazine showed in its poll that 69 per cent. of the Catholic women favour birth control. That they lived up to their belief in practice as well as in theory is evident from the admission of the Jesuit magazine, *The Catholic Mind*, in its issue of December, 1943, that in the past twenty years the Catholic population increased 5 per cent. less than the non-Catholic population. Birth control clinics and growing leakage among Catholics furnish additional proof that is too well known to need repetition here.

How utterly ignorant many Catholics are of their own religion and how basically uninterested in it is shown from the following factual survey described in the January 29, 1944, issue of the Jesuit magazine *America*:

"The five Catholic chaplains were puzzled. But then one of them had a light. 'Just how good is civilian Catholicism? Rather, just how good were these lads before we got them in the Army?' he asked. He was attached to the base hospital, and determined to take a sort of Gallup-poll of hospitalized Catholics for the next twelve days.

"During the twelve-day period, 164 Catholics had entered the hospital under his charge. Of these he discov-

1. U.S. Census, *Religious Bodies*, 1936, vol. I, page 22.

2. U.S. Census, *Religious Bodies*, 1936, vol. I, page 20.

ered 16 with bad [invalid] marriages; 8 nominally Catholic would have absolutely nothing to do with the priest; 26 had been away from the Sacraments from one-and-a-half to eighteen years; 4 had not made their first Communion. From civilian life, the Army had received 54 out of 164 who had major impediments to the practice of normal Catholicism; he did not even try to summarize the minor deficiencies . . . These figures seem to indicate that of the male American population 33 per cent. of Catholics did not practise their religion even nominally."

A Jesuit chaplain in the U.S. Army was quoted in *Time* magazine of last February 21, as follows:

"I have found instances of Catholics who don't even know the *Hail Mary* and as far as the *Act of Contrition* is concerned, don't make me laugh! I have had soldier after soldier repeat after me word for word the *Act of Contrition* so that I could give him absolution."

"I have about 900 Catholics to take care of. If I get 300 to Mass on Sundays I think I'm doing great."

Far from making the remarkable progress that sensational propagandists like Bishop Noll would like us to believe, the Roman Catholic church in this country is not advancing as fast as the non-Catholic population. Msgr. Ligutti, executive secretary of the National Catholic-Rural Life Conference, was quoted in the Brooklyn *Tablet* of September 4, 1943, as follows:

"Ten years ago we Catholics had 250,000 more elementary school children."

Father Thomas F. Coakley, in the article quoted above, laments the "tremendous leakage" and the "appalling number of cases of defection and apostasy from the faith" in spite of everything the Catholic church can do to stop them even in its best-organized parishes.

The December, 1943, issue of the Jesuit magazine, *The Catholic Mind*, admits the following:

"The Catholic population in the United States is decreasing. Or rather, since the turn of the century there has been an astounding decline in its rate of increase each decade."

Facts on World Catholicism

We have shown above that in the United States over one-fourth of so-called Catholics are young children who do not yet know their own minds, and that of the remaining 15,000,000 one third are, by Catholic admission, *not even nominal Catholics*. This leaves only 10,000,000 Catholics, even when mere nominal Catholics and children over thirteen are included. This is a far cry from the 40,000,000 Catholics that Bishop Noll invented for propaganda purposes. Bad as this fourfold exaggeration is, it is closer to the truth than the completely false statistics given for so-called Catholic countries where everyone is listed as Catholic.

So carelessly does the Catholic church toss about figures that a mere matter of 100-odd millions counts for nothing. The *Catholic Encyclopedia* (XII, 503) numbers Catholics of the world at 270,000,000. The propaganda column of the *Catholic Information Society*, syndicated in various newspapers of this country, speaks of 360,000,000 Catholics in the world. *The Tidings*, Catholic diocesan paper of Los Angeles, in its issue of last July 7 said there are 400,000,000 Catholics.

One would expect that at least intelligent Americans would realize that Catholic population figures are concocted for the purposes of power politics. Unfortunately

this is not the case. One finds, for instance, the liberal columnist Max Lerner writing in the September 5 issue of the newspaper *PM* that Rome is "the religious capital which engages the allegiance of *hundreds of millions* of people all over the world."

The fact is that the three hundred-odd millions of adherents claimed by the Roman Catholic church include tens of millions who still cling to their pagan beliefs like the Indians of Mexico and South America, the wild *penitentes* among the millions claimed in the Philippines, the Catholic 'rice Christians' in China as well as in the French and Dutch colonies of Southeastern Asia and the Belgian Congo.

Even apart from the many millions of half-pagan Catholics just referred to, it would be a mistake to imagine that the profession of Catholicism on the part of the others is entirely voluntary. In the large areas of feudal Europe, where Catholicism is strongest to-day, the Vatican has held its sway over the masses first through the Roman Inquisition and in the last few centuries by pacts with backward monarchies, wealthy reactionaries and present-day Fascists. Typical of the coercive laws in these countries that made a mockery of religious freedom was the one in Austria, reported in a *United Press* dispatch of November 15, 1938, which prescribed that *no one could become a Protestant without making formal application to Catholic authorities and submitting to a mental examination*.

Even more effective than direct force is the widespread illiteracy fostered in Catholic countries to prevent the masses from reaching truth and freedom. In Portugal to-day, for example, 60 per cent. of the people can neither read nor write. In other Catholic countries like Spain, Mexico and the so-called republics of Latin America illiteracy and ignorance are equally prevalent. Freed from these chains of reaction, the 300,000,000 of so-called Catholics would dwindle within a generation to an insignificant minority. This is the reason the Vatican is fighting so fiercely to exclude Protestant missionaries from Spain and South America, for they educate the people so they can read the Bible.

The figures supplied to the *World Almanac*, 1944, by the Catholic church count 99.6 per cent. of all Italians as Roman Catholics. It was under this pretext that the Knights of Columbus demanded that Catholics be given charge of the AMG in occupied Italy. The blunt truth about Italian Catholicism, however, was expressed by Catholics themselves a few years ago, before American Catholicism entered international power politics at the time of the Spanish civil war. No less an authority than the well-known Msgr. Belford of Brooklyn, N.Y., was quoted as follows in the Catholic magazine, *The Fortnightly Review* of January 15, 1927:

"Some of the Italians are excellent Catholics, but the vast majority have no religion of any kind. They will not go to Mass. . . . They do not receive the Sacraments, except Baptism. They marry before the city clerk. They work hard; they pay their debts; they love their homes, but they have no use for the Church or the clergy."

The N.Y. *Times* of February 7, 1940, quoted the Pastoral Letter of the Archbishop of Palermo in Italy admitting that 68 per cent. of Italians fail to attend mass on days when attendance is prescribed by the church under the severest spiritual penalties. He added that

(Continued on page 13)

From the above it will be observed that the books came from the American side. It would be interesting to know who paid for them over there. It should be further observed that these were intended for Roman Catholic clergy, and that the French ones were sent to the regular Roman Catholic list along with the propaganda sheet known as *Nouvelles Catholiques*. It was further observed that "some copies" were sent out with the pamphlet usually issued in English. We are now informed that this was a mistake and so we are sent this explanation.

The fact that the explanation came in a duplicated letter shows, indeed, that the Protestant conscience in Canada is not dead. We presume there were many complaints to the Wartime Information Board on receipt of this pamphlet. But even if the sending of the pamphlet to English readers was a mistake, or even if the mistake were sending it to English readers other than those of the Roman faith, we are still reminded of the way in which the needs and aims of the Roman Church are fostered by public taxes and government organization inasmuch as *Les Nazis en Guerre contre L'Eglise Catholique* was mailed by government-paid clerks to a government mailing list, with free postage. This is another way of compelling you and me and everyone else to help along the work of the Roman Catholic Church by free government services for its propaganda.

—W.G.B.

HOW MANY CATHOLICS ARE THERE?

(Continued from page 6)

only 12 per cent. of the Italian men fulfilled the obligation of receiving communion during the Easter season; this implies that 88 per cent. of the men were virtually excommunicated from the church.*

In Spain the situation is worse than in Italy. Gerald Brenan in his new, scholarly work, *The Spanish Labyrinth*, shows that even in the broadest sense of the word not more than 20 per cent. of the Spaniards can be called Catholics. In many towns and villages the percentage is far less than that. On page 53 he says:

"According to Father Francisco Peiro only 5 per cent. of the villagers of New Castile and central Spain attended Mass or carried out their Easter obligation [of receiving communion]; in Andalusia the attendance of men was 1 per cent.; in many villages the priest said mass alone . . . The position in Madrid was no better."

Archbishop Spellman in his new book, *Action This Day*, let the truth slip out that Spain is so anti-Catholic that if the masses were not held in check by force they would rise up and wipe out overnight the churches and clergy of Spain.

In Latin America the condition of Catholicism is like that of Spain, which exported to the new continent what Bunge the famous South American sociologist calls, "un-Christian Catholicism." One has only to read the works of Carleton Beals, especially *Fire in the Andes*, to realize the unspeakable pagan superstition that prevails there. After four hundred years of Roman Catholicism, Latin America is still a missionary land that is forced to import a large part of its clergy from Germany, Italy

*See *Is Italy a Catholic Country?* by Prof. G. Salvemini. Price 5c.

and Spain, and during the present war, from the United States. Thousands of towns and villages have not seen a Catholic priest in years. While in this country there is a Roman Catholic priest for every 660 Catholics, in the republic of Guatemala in Latin America, for instance, there is only one priest for every 25,000 Catholics. Jesuit Father Alberto Hurtado in his well-documented book *Is Chile a Catholic Country?* admits that "not more than 5 or 6 per cent. of the masculine population of Chile really professes Catholicism, and only 14 per cent. of the feminine population."

It is high time that intelligent people stopped accepting the home-made statistics of the Catholic hierarchy, which uses public credulity as a stepping-stone to political power. Such silly expressions as "the devout Catholic people of Italy," and "Catholic Spain," should be discarded in favour of the truth. As long as leaders of the people continue to crook the knee before the pretensions of Rome, the Vatican will continue to bluff its way in international power politics.

Everyone familiar with the history of Roman Catholicism should realize that it is determined to regain its medieval domination, even at the cost of truth. Non-Catholics should not be afraid to admit what Cardinal Newman had to learn through bitter experience. Many years after his conversion to Roman Catholicism he was forced to admit in July, 1864: "Unless one doctored all one's facts, one should be thought a bad Catholic." Roman Catholic Lord Acton felt the same way when he wrote Gladstone in 1876 in regard to the Jesuit Catholicism of the Vatican:

"It not only promotes, it inculcates distinct mendacity and deceitfulness. In certain cases it is made a duty to lie."

3. Cardinal Newman's words are quoted from one of his letters published in the January, 1903, issue of the Catholic monthly, *The Mind*, page 4. Lord Acton's letter to Gladstone is found in *Selections from the Correspondence of Lord Acton*, vol. I, pp. 41-43.

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